



SELECTMEN'S MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2022
MINUTES

Selectmen in Attendance: Dick Norcross and John Hicks.

Attendees: Fire Chief, Richard Perreault; Public Works Director, Cliff Cousins; Animal Control Officer, Cindy Eaton; Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Vane; Rec Director, Willy Tracy; Hailey Boudreau; Patrick Bryant; Cindy Walker; Erik Walker; Steve Booker; Lois Bowden; William Flynn; Bruce Collins; Joe Egan; Dan Larsen; Lisa Hebert; Matt Coen; Carrie Garland; Vinny Lanovara; Hollie Hazzard; Mitchell Dondero and Judi Tordo.

Chairman, Dick Norcross called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants were approved.

Minutes of the October 25, 2022 Selectmen's Meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

The Board of Selectmen decided to issue cellphones and stop paying stipends to four department heads: Animal Control Officer, Code Enforcement Officer, Rec Director, and Public Works Director. Cindy Eaton and Mike Vane accepted the town issued phones. Cliff Cousins and Willy Tracy did not. Cindy Walker kept interrupting the Board stating she doesn't think this is in the best interest of the employee while Dick Norcross took the stand that the Board is looking out for the Town.

Zack Everett called Alvina and said he thinks that he has the Skatepark and money lost from a "Go Fund Me" face book page settled at this time, so he won't be at this meeting.

There was a brief conversation on the Christmas tree lights, whether or not the lights work. Cliff stated there are Christmas tree lights down stairs and Dick asked Cliff if they could check the lights on the tree. Cindy said there used to be a Christmas decorating committee and doesn't know what happened to that. It was agreed that Thanksgiving holiday will be Thursday and Friday November 24 & 25. The Town Office will be closed on those dates.

For the Planning Board, Joe said they don't need to be on the agenda every week, they will let us know.

Willy was provided the agreement for the cellphone to review prior to accepting it.

On the subject of the Comprehensive Plan, John Hicks said in his opinion things are out of control and he did a review of the facts starting with the 1991 Comprehensive Plan. He would like to get everything together and present it to legal counsel. He read from our 1991 Comprehensive Plan, The Planning Board bylaws, and the Ordinance that established the Brownfield Planning Board. He said this is the way it is supposed to go and it isn't the way it's been done so asked how do we fix it? He explained that the Comp plan gives the authority to the Chair of the Planning Board. Erik said it also allows for other outside individuals to be involved as well and John said through the chair of the planning board. Bill explained that prior to Feb of 2018, Poland Spring sent a guy to talk with the Board, indicating that Poland Springs was looking in this area. A group in town not wanting Poland Springs taking our water met with the Board wanting to look into zoning. On Feb 27, 2018, Jane Anderson, Deb Merrill, Lisa Thompson, Kurt Wood, Christine Gillespie, Barbara Smith, and Linda Draper met with the Board to start a zoning committee for a better Brownfield. The Board created that committee to report back them. They came back and said they were running into too many obstacles for zoning so they wanted to start a new committee called a Comprehensive Plan Committee. On June 22, 2021 the Board authorized this also telling them to come back to them with information. John said the group should have brought information to the Chair of the Planning Board according to the bylaws of the planning board. Mitch said his wife was chair of the Planning Board and fully aware of what was going on and they had 3 members from the planning board on the comprehensive plan committee. Bruce commented that in 2018 he had to prove that the comprehensive plan was a legal document. Erik said documents were presented to the planning board, he also said all are on audio recordings on file in Wanda's Office at the Town Office. Bruce said he has an email from Erik to Legal Counsel where he denied the Comprehensive Plan had been adopted. Joe asked for Alvina to send these documents to the Comprehensive Plan Committee and the Planning Board and suggested that perhaps they could all get together with the Board of Selectmen and discuss it. John said he wished the informational hearing was recorded. John wants to have MMA review the information and Joe recommends including Tom, the State Planner. John said this is not pointing fingers he just wants to clear it up with MMA or a Lawyer. Bill responded to Bruce's earlier statement about an illegal committee saying the Board is entitled to create committees and that is what they did. Bruce said he went back 8 times to update the comprehensive plan it doesn't need to be thrown in the trash there is a procedure to update it.

Hailey Boudreau said she has some of the informational meeting on video and she agreed to send it to Alvina so it can be posted on the website for people to watch.

Cindy Walker questioned the miscommunication/muddy statement and who is paying for all the research. John said as Selectman he gets \$5,000 a year and Bruce is helping him.

Hollie Hazzard said her understanding is there was an original plan that wasn't updated. A committee was formed so is it a procedural problem. She said this document was created from a survey of the people of Brownfield.

Erik has issues with the Selectmen going to Augusta for just this issue. He thinks it would be better to keep the groups together. John said he may do it electronically if he can.

Vinny said he had asked whether the State had any problems with the existing plan and they said no. The committee put together an informational booklet which is very informative with history but maybe it should be done in pieces as needed.

Lisa Hebert said there is a lot going back and forth and suggests that people get together to discuss it.

Bruce talked about the definition of an update.

Joe again suggests that the selectboard, comp plan committee, and planning board get together to discuss it.

Erik suggests using zoom equipment at the next informational meeting so people could watch it later. Dick agreed and agrees with a group meeting. John said he wants people to understand it. Mitchell said the comp plan has been approved by the State. Bruce said the idea is so we don't have to play he said, she said. Vinny said it has to go for a town meeting vote. Joe explained that they had asked Tom to come to the meeting and will try again but there are only two people in the State to review these plans.

Judi Tordo said she doesn't understand why there is a problem with the comprehensive plan. It is a plan. The point of the plan is to make things better for the town and to make things better for everybody. Dick said it does have times that things have to be done. She asked whether everything got done in the last one. Dick answered, some did and some didn't.

Vinny Lanovara said he requested to be on the agenda for the budget committee to schedule meetings that would be most convenient. Dick suggested Tuesday nights right after the Selectmen's Meeting and asking the Planning Board to change their meeting nights. Vinny also suggests that the Town should have an air purifier for the meeting room and provided info on one.

Patrick Bryant said the mapping updates are done and the next meeting is a week from tomorrow night, for the Broadband committee (Nov 9). It will be via zoom.

Willy asked for the Board to meet with him to discuss the policy for the town issued cellphones.

The Board signed a Memorandum of Agreement between the Towns Comprising the MSAD 72 School district to complete a joint Broadband Planning Process which will extend the Project Duration date from December 31, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

The Town Assessor, Robert Konczal provided a document allowing for an abatement to be granted to Joyce Gibran for R02-002-051 because the Homestead Exemption was missed.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alvina Day, Administrative Assistant